

REPORT TO: Safer Policy Performance Board

DATE: 19 November 2024

REPORTING OFFICER: Executive Director - Environment & Regeneration

PORTFOLIO: Community Safety

SUBJECT: Prevent

WARD(S) Borough wide

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1.1 To update the Board on the Prevent programme and delivery in Halton.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION: That the Board receives a presentation on the Prevent programme.

3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

3.1 The countries national threat level remains at substantial, the definition of which is, and attack is likely. PREVENT is the government's framework to prevent radicalisation, the guidance has been updated on 6th March 2024 following an independent review: - [Prevent duty guidance: for England and Wales \(accessible\) - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/guidance/prevent-duty-guidance-for-england-and-wales)

3.2 Following the recent horrendous incident in Southport and the ensuing civil unrest seen across the UK the PREVENT work has never been more prevalent.

3.3 The objectives of Prevent are to: -

- Tackle the ideological causes of terrorism.
- Intervene early to support people susceptible to radicalisation.
- Enable people who have already engaged in terrorism to disengage and rehabilitate.

3.4 Halton's governance and approach to Prevent includes a Channel multi-agency partnership which considers Prevent referrals and appropriate interventions and participating in Contest meetings; these are the mechanisms/meetings for the framework of governance.

3.5 A multi-agency Prevent Delivery Group has also been established to support proactive, preventative multi-agency approaches to tackling radicalisation to extreme ideologies. This provides an effective

mechanism of engagement working to ensure consistent approaches to Prevent across Halton's system.

3.6 The Council's information, referral mechanism and training offer around Prevent has been strengthened in recent months with partners in the Home Office, Department of Education and Counter Terrorism Policing supporting this work.

3.7 In recent months, a Liverpool City Region (LCR) approach to Prevent has commenced. Halton, alongside Knowsley, Liverpool, Sefton, St Helen's & Wirral is working supporting a joined-up approach to Prevent and sharing resources where possible as Liverpool benefits from being a Home Office funded area. A training offer has been developed and there was a regional approach to Prevent week which took place w/c 14th October including -

- Circulation to all Heads of Service & Directors of the LCR Training Offer
- Circulation on the staff news section of the training offers
- HBC attended LCR Prevent Advisory Group on Tuesday 15th October.

As part of the LCR training offer a Members awareness session has been arranged for Wednesday 27th November with Dr Gareth Harris.

3.8 The Council is required to complete a Home Office benchmarking exercise on Prevent arrangements annually.

4.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

4.1 None to report.

5.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

5.1 None to report.

6.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES

6.1 Improving Health, Promoting Wellbeing and Supporting Greater Independence

The Prevent programme supports the promoting of wellbeing to Halton residents that are vulnerable and are susceptible to radicalisation.

6.2 Building a Strong, Sustainable Local Economy

Prevent work contributes to the resilience of the local community which impacts the sense of place and attractiveness of the Borough.

6.3 Supporting Children, Young People and Families

The Prevent Programme will deliver Prevent awareness training to professionals in Children's Social Care including education providers to help identify those susceptible to radicalisation and implement

appropriate support mechanisms.

6.4 Tackling Inequality and Helping Those Who Are Most In Need

The Prevent Programme including the Channel process identifies and offers support to vulnerable residents that are susceptible to radicalisation.

6.5 Working Towards a Greener Future

None to report.

6.6 Valuing and Appreciating Halton and Our Community

The programme of work provides support to marginalised or disenfranchised cohorts of the community.

7.0 RISK ANALYSIS

7.1 There is significant risk in this area of work, failure to have a robust approach would result in a lack of understanding of risks locally, regionally, and nationally and the opportunity for extreme ideologies to be perpetuated in the Borough.

8.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES

8.1 The programme is universal with flex to ensure the most appropriate support is provided which may involve responding to cultural and faith matters.

9.0 CLIMATE CHANGE IMPLICATIONS

9.1 None to report.

10.0 LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS UNDER SECTION 100D OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972

Safer Halton Policy Performance Board, September 2021.